



PAUL L. BROWN  
JAMES J. HILL  
HARRY M. LEVY  
ROBERT R. CALIRI  
THOMAS E. HILL  
JONATHAN J. KRIT  
HELEN S. CORDELL  
OF COUNSEL

# EMRICH & DITHMAR

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

SUITE 3000

300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606, USA

TEL: 312-663-9800

FAX: 312-663-9822

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## Sections:

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- Drawings
- Specifications
- Claims



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(19) United States

(12) Patent Application Publication  
Watt

(10) Pub. No.: US 2002/0010482 A1

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(54) BIOPOLYMER SPONGE TUBES, SURGICAL  
STAPLERS AND METHODS OF USE  
THEREOF

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Oct. 3, 1997 (GB) 9721079

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## (57) ABSTRACT

The invention provides biopolymer sponge tubes closed at one end for use in surgery. The preferred biopolymer is collagen. The biopolymer sponge tubes are prepared by forming an aqueous dispersion of the biopolymer, introducing the dispersion into tube-shaped molds, freezing the dispersion in the molds to form a shaped, aqueous dispersion, followed by freeze-drying the frozen aqueous dispersion. The tubes are fitted over endoscopic surgical staplers to provide improved sealing of stapled tissues, especially for air-tight sealing in lung resections.

(76) Inventor: Paul W. Watt, Steaton (GB)

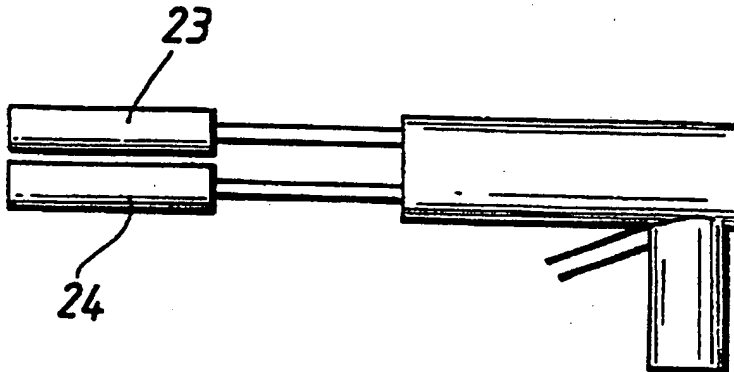
Correspondence Address:  
AUDLEY A. CIAMPORCERO JR.  
JOHNSON & JOHNSON  
ONE JOHNSON & JOHNSON PLAZA  
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933-7003 (US)

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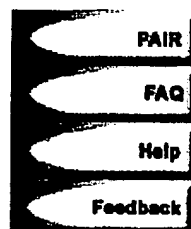
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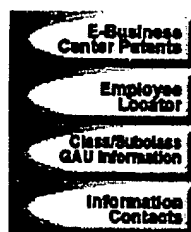
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| Search results for application number: 09/887,742              |                          |                            |                             |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Application Number:  | 09/887,742               | Customer Number:           | -                           |
| Filing or 371(c) Date:   | 06-22-2001               | Status:                    | Non Final Action Ma         |
| Application Type:  | Utility                  | Status Date:               | 09-22-2003                  |
| Examiner Name:   | VARGOT, MATHIEU D        | Location:                  | TC 1700 CENTRAL F CP3-10C24 |
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| First Named Inventor:  | Paul Watt, Steeton, (GB) | Issue Date of Patent:      | -                           |
| Title Of Invention: Methods for making biopolymer sponge tubes |                          |                            |                             |

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| Parent Continuity Data            |               |                              |             |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Description                       | Parent Number | Parent Filing or 371(c) Date | Parent Stat |
| This application is a Division of | 09/164,793    | 10-01-1998                   | Pending     |

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